

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7168**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1585

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 9, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Deer Hunting Bag Limits.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Friend

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to increase the seasonal bag limit for deer in the 30 counties that had the highest number of collisions involving deer and motor vehicles during the previous year.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill provides that the DNR director must establish a seasonal bag limit for deer that is two times greater than the previous year's bag limit for each of 30 counties that had the highest number of collisions involving deer and motor vehicles as reported by the State Police Department. The provision expires July 1, 2012. Because licenses are computer generated, the DNR will not incur significant expenses associated with the proposed change.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The amount of additional revenue, if any, that will be generated by the proposal is indeterminable. A license to hunt a deer is \$24. License fee revenue is deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund which is used to finance the operations of the DNR divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

**Background:** Below are the totals for deer licenses sold during the last 3 years.

2006 Deer licenses sold: 248,672

2007 Deer licenses sold : 242,715

2008 Deer licenses sold : 259,939

A DNR deer hunter survey, which is sent out every two years to a random selection of deer hunters, shows that 54% of deer hunters fail to kill a deer, and only 7% of hunters kill more than two deer each year. Currently, in each county, a hunter may harvest a maximum of four deer (two in archery season, one in firearms season, and one in muzzleloader season), not including the bonus antlerless tags, which range from one to eight.

For 2008, the top 30 counties that had the highest number of collisions were Kosciusko, Steuben, Allen, Marshall, Porter, Elkhart, Tippecanoe, Noble, Dearborn, Vigo, Lake, St Joseph, Jasper, DeKalb, Warrick, Harrison, Wabash, Huntington, Clark, Cass, Hamilton, Montgomery, Pulaski, Parke, Starke, Greene, Washington, Jackson, Wayne, and Miami.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** DNR.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bernadette Bartlett, 317-232-9586.